

## **“Is Indonesia’s democratization a road map for the Arab Spring?”**

By

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### **Abstract:**

It is no exaggeration to say that the events sweeping the Arab World in the past two years have gripped us all and I guess a lot of us (myself included) are still trying to grapple with their implications. At the same time, the ‘Indonesian model’ has also become an increasingly repeated mantra in media and policy circles. The logic and appeal here is obvious. Simply stated, Indonesia is the most populous Muslim country on the planet and in the decade and more since the downfall of Suharto; it has successfully, if not always without difficulty, transitioned from authoritarian rule to a functioning democracy. Indonesia now accommodates a diversity of political expression within the framework of democratic electoral politics. Yet, should we hold up the ‘Indonesian model’ as a general panacea for what ails the Middle East? The following talk examines this question in more detail to see whether or not our apples are actually oranges.

### **Speaker’s Profile:**

Dr. Paul J. Carnegie (PhD, Queensland) is a Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the Institute of Asian Studies, UBD. His research situates itself in the field of democratic transitions and post-authoritarian politics with a particular focus on Indonesia and more generally Southeast Asia and the MENA region. This work explores the complex role both political action and institutions play in post-authoritarian settings. He is the author of *The Road from Authoritarianism to Democratization in Indonesia* (Palgrave Macmillan 2010) alongside research articles in leading international journals. Over the last decade, his teaching and research have led to extensive travels in the Asia-Pacific and MENA regions.